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# **WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR IDAHO**



**U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Collaborating with

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF WATER ADMINISTRATION

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State and private organizations listed inside the back cover of this report.

AS OF  
**JUNE 1, 1975**

## TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

*Cover Photo: Cabins near Sacajawea Snow Course  
in Bridger Mountains, Montana.*

S.C.S. PHOTO 11-P480-15

## PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, West Technical Service Center, Room 111, 511 N.W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	204 E. 5th. Ave., Room 217, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82601

## PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



# **WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR IDAHO**

and  
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

*Issued by*

KENNETH E. GRANT  
ADMINISTRATOR  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

|||||  
*Released by*

GUY W. NUTT  
STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
BOISE, IDAHO

*In Cooperation with*

R. KEITH HIGGINSON  
DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
STATE OF IDAHO

|||||  
*Report prepared by*

JACK A. WILSON, Snow Survey Supervisor  
and  
MARION O. CARSTENS, Statistical Assistant

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
SNOW SURVEY SECTION  
ROOM 345, 304 N. 8th. ST.  
BOISE, IDAHO 83702





# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK for IDAHO



JUNE 1, 1975

## SNOW SURVEYS, SUPPLEMENTAL MEASUREMENTS AND CORRECTIONS

The outlook for water supply for 1975 is good to excellent throughout Idaho with seasonal streamflow forecasts above normal on all major streams.

Exceptionally cool and wet weather which began in mid-March continued through April and May. The cool temperatures have delayed the snowmelt well beyond the normal snowmelt season, particularly at the higher elevations. Snow surveys near June 1 indicate record to near record snow-water remaining at high elevations throughout the state.

Snowmelt from low and middle elevations has produced minor flooding in northern and eastern Idaho. Alternating warm and cool periods have resulted in fluctuating high water periods, keeping flooding below the very damaging level. A flood potential still exists in the heavy snow-pack if we experience a prolonged hot spell or a combination of warm temperatures and rain.

Reservoir storage is good to excellent, though many are being kept at a low level in anticipation of heavy runoff. All major reservoirs are expected to be filled by the time major irrigation demand begins.

This report carries supplemental and corrected measurements made earlier in the season.

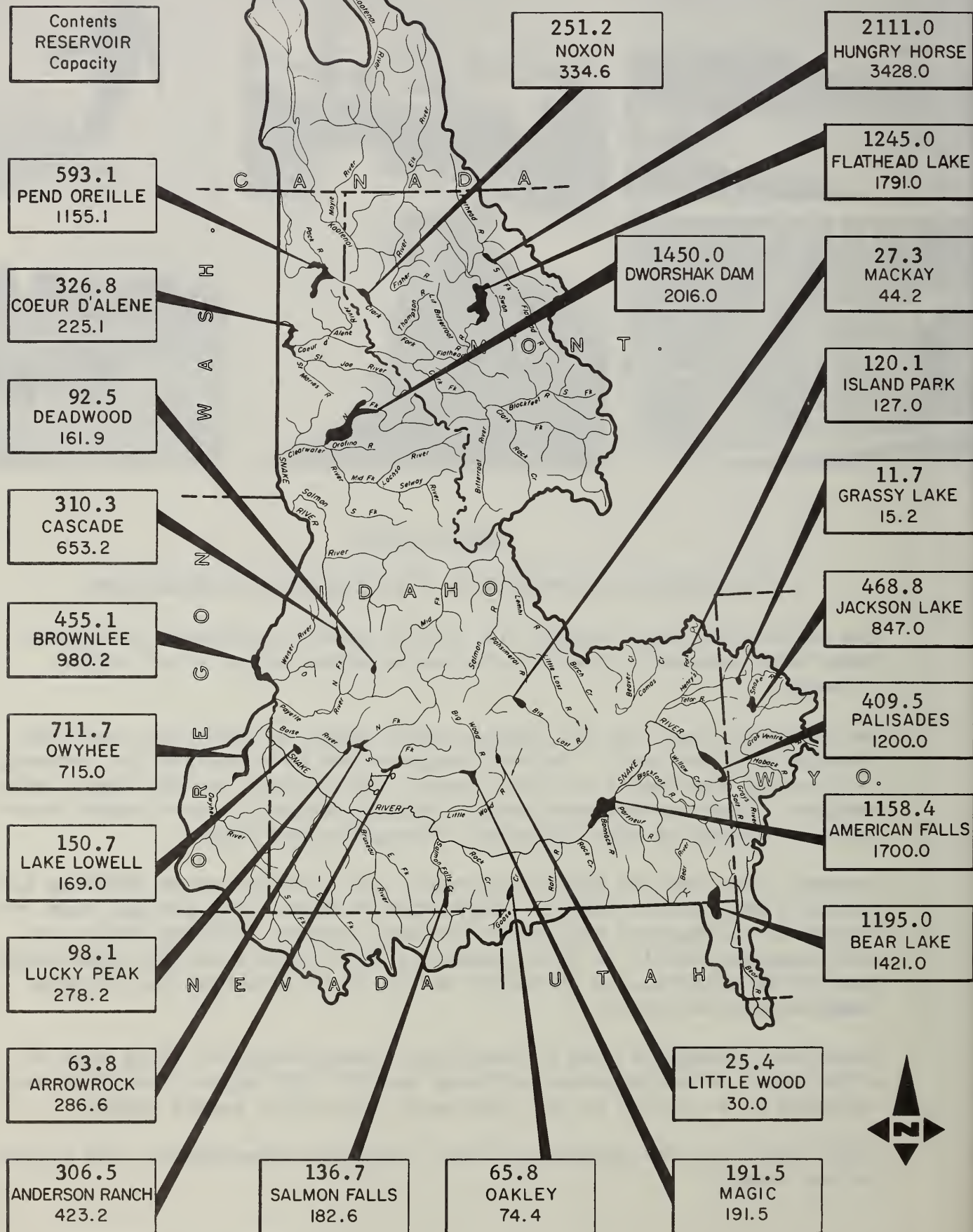


# RESERVOIR STORAGE

USABLE CONTENTS (1,000 Acre Feet)

JUNE 1, 1975

50 0 50 100 150  
SCALE IN MILES





## SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average <sup>b</sup>

JUNE 1, 1975 MEASUREMENTS

Aspen Grove	6600	5/30	17	7.2	--	--
Atlanta Summit	7500	5/28	88	41.4	30.9	--
Badger Gulch	6660	5/29	18	9.1	--	--
Bear Canyon	7920	5/29	37	15.2	T	--
Big Creek Summit	6600	5/30	73	39.8	47.4	--
Birch Creek	6800	5/30	3	1.4	--	--
Blue Ridge	6775	5/30	20	10.3	--	--
Bostetter Ranger Station	7500	5/29	58	28.0	--	--
Boulder Creek	5500	6/2	5	2.8	0.0	--
Brundage Mountain	7560	5/28	108	52.8	62.0	--
Coolwater Mountain	6200	5/30	83	36.2	22.8*	--
Copper Basin	7650	5/29	15	5.5	--	--
Crater Meadows	6100	5/30	95	46.8	39.6*	--
Crawford Ranger Station	4800	5/30	0	0.0	0.0	--
Darby Canyon	8250	5/30	65	28.6	19.2	--
Elk Butte	5550	5/29	54	23.6	20.0*	--
Fish Lake Airstrip	5000	5/30	76	34.8	25.6*	--
Fishpole Lake	9350	5/29	61	25.2	--	--
Freds Mountain	8000	5/30	67	28.1	21.3	--
Galena	7300	5/28	34	15.8	3.4	--
Galena Summit	8795	5/28	77	33.9	32.0	--
Garns Mountain	8300	5/30	102	48.0	30.8	--
Goat Lake	6600	5/30	117	51.8	49.0*	--
Granite Peak	6000	5/29	99	42.1	44.8	--
Hemlock Butte	5500	5/30	103	47.2	43.2*	--
Indian Meadows	8200	5/30	100	47.2	42.7	--
Jackpine	7500	5/30	56	27.6	14.3	--
Jackson Peak	7000	5/28	73	35.6	26.8	--
Lake Fork	6000	6/1	11	5.5	3.0	--
Lookout	5250	5/30	54	28.8	34.2	--
Lost Lake	6000	5/29	125	58.2	83.6	--
Lost-Wood Divide	7900	5/29	47	21.4	--	--
Mascot Mine	7900	5/29	28	10.9	T	--
McRenold Reservoir	6800	5/30	47	20.9	0.0	--
Medicine Ridge	6150	5/29	100	43.4	52.6	--
Miles Creek	7500	5/30	21	9.2	0.0	--
Moores Creek Summit	6100	5/28	65	33.0	26.7	8.1
Mud Creek	7150	5/30	22	10.3	--	--
Orogrande Mountain	7800	5/30	134	53.6	44.0*	--
Pine Creek Pass	6750	5/30	20	9.3	0.0	--
Secesh Summit	6600	5/30	67	36.2	46.9	--
South Mountain	6340	5/27	17	8.5	--	--
Squaw Meadow	5800	5/30	56	35.6	37.5	--
State Line	6400	5/30	14	6.4	0.0	--
Stickney Mill	7500	5/29	T	T	--	--
Trinity Mountain	7780	5/28	99	49.6	39.6	--
Vienna Mine	8900	5/28	90	45.0	47.5	--

\*June 12, 1974 Measurement.

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. \* Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

## SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average

SUPPLEMENTAL MEASUREMENTSJANUARY 15, 1975

Atlanta Summit	7500	1/17	57	15.6	--	--
Mount Baldy	9000	1/14	38	8.4	16.4	--
Pierce Ranger Station	3170	1/15	40	9.3	8.3	--

FEBRUARY 15, 1975

Atlanta Summit	7500	2/18	94	27.2	--	--
Bad Bear	5500	2/14	42	13.2	--	--
Bogus Basin	6120	2/13	72	20.8	--	--
Bogus Basin Road	5360	2/13	33	10.4	--	--
Galena	7300	2/14	77	17.8	--	--
Galena Summit	8795	2/14	89	21.2	--	--
Jackson Peak	7000	2/18	85	25.0	--	--
Moore's Creek Summit	6100	2/14	101	27.8	--	--
Mount Baldy	9000	2/14	74	16.1	22.0	16.4
Pierce Ranger Station	3170	2/14	53	13.7	--	--
Trinity Mountain	7780	2/18	106	34.5	--	--
Vienna Mine	8900	2/18	94	28.4	--	--

MARCH 15, 1975

Above Burke	4100	3/19	82	29.9	31.4	--
Atlanta Summit	7500	3/14	88	32.2	--	--
Bogus Basin	6120	3/13	70	25.5	31.5	--
Galena	7300	3/14	57	18.9	33.0	--
Galena Summit	8795	3/14	72	23.7	39.2	--
Jackson Peak	7000	3/14	79	28.8	--	--
Lookout	5250	3/14	100	36.5	48.2	--
Moore's Creek Summit	6100	3/13	87	32.8	43.6	--
Mount Baldy	9000	3/14	61	17.7	30.0	19.7
Pierce Ranger Station	3170	3/14	40	14.6	17.8	11.1
Prairie	4900	3/15	20	6.5	8.6	--
Sherwin	3200	3/13	50	18.6	22.7	14.2
Trinity Mountain	7780	3/14	103	41.3	--	--
Vienna Mine	8900	3/14	89	33.3	--	--

APRIL 15, 1975

Aspen Grove	6600	4/14	51	16.2	--	--
Atlanta Summit	7500	4/18	123	45.9	54.2	--
Bad Bear	5500	4/15	52	18.5	19.5	--
Birch Creek	6800	4/14	52	19.1	--	--
Blue Ridge	6800	4/14	65	24.8	--	--
Bogus Basin	6120	4/11	101	36.9	34.2	--
Bogus Basin Road	5360	4/11	36	12.5	--	--

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. \* Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

## SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average <sup>b</sup>

APRIL 15, 1975 (Cont'd)

Bone	6200	4/14	28	10.2	--	--
Brockman Station	6430	4/14	42	14.0	--	--
Galena	7300	4/15	74	24.2	35.0	--
Galena Summit	8795	4/15	102	34.0	44.0	--
Graham Ranch	6200	4/15	53	17.3	--	--
Hell Creek	7100	4/14	54	19.8	--	--
Jackson Peak	7000	4/18	98	37.7	--	--
Moore's Creek Summit	6100	4/14	114	42.5	50.6	31.7
Mount Baldy	9000	4/16	84	25.2	32.6	--
Mud Creek	7150	4/14	55	19.2	--	--
Pierce Ranger Station	3170	4/15	37	14.8	11.5	--
Prairie	4900	4/15	21	7.5	0.0	--
Sheep Mountain	6510	4/14	46	14.5	--	--
Tex Creek	6550	4/14	42	14.8	--	--
Trinity Mountain	7780	4/18	138	57.0	75.7	--
Vienna Mine	8900	4/18	127	46.7	--	--

MAY 15, 1975

Aspen Grove	6600	5/15	39	15.2	--	--
Atlanta Summit	7500	5/13	113	50.3	--	--
Birch Creek	6800	5/15	35	15.9	--	--
Blue Ridge	6800	5/15	51	23.5	--	--
Bogus Basin	6120	5/14	87	38.5	--	--
Bogus Basin Road	5360	5/14	0	0.0	--	--
Brockman Station	6430	5/15	16	7.4	--	--
Hell Creek	7100	5/15	35	15.4	--	--
Jackson Peak	7000	5/13	96	43.2	--	--
Lookout	5250	5/15	80	41.0	34.2	--
Moore's Creek Summit	6100	5/13	94	44.5	--	--
Mud Creek	7150	5/15	50	22.1	--	--
Sheep Mountain	6510	5/15	23	9.2	--	--
Tex Creek	6550	5/15	30	11.0	--	--
Trinity Mountain	7780	5/13	124	57.2	--	--
Vienna Mine	8900	5/13	113	51.7	--	--

EXTRA MEASUREMENTS - APRIL 22, 1975

Aspen Grove	6600	4/22	48	16.5	--	--
Birch Creek	6800	4/22	46	17.5	--	--
Blue Ridge	6800	4/22	59	23.9	--	--
Bone	6200	4/22	22	8.5	--	--
Brockman Station	6430	4/22	36	13.3	--	--
Hell Creek	7100	4/22	50	20.0	--	--
Mud Creek	7150	4/22	52	19.4	--	--
Sheep Mountain	6510	4/22	40	14.5	--	--
Tex Creek	6550	4/22	38	13.0	--	--

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. \* Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation W water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.



## SNOW

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE		THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
		Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
NAME	Elevation				Last Year	Average <sup>6</sup>

CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED 1975 DATAJANUARY 1, 1975

Copes Camp (A)	7500	1/2	12	1.8	4.5	--
Hall Creek (A)	7560	1/2	7	1.0	3.4	--
Schwartz Lake (A)	8500	1/2	21	4.9	9.0	--
Wilson Creek (A)	7500	12/29	27	6.2	6.5	--

FEBRUARY 1, 1975

Hemlock Butte	5500	1/30	126	33.4	53.0	32.8*
Red Point (A)	7940	2/5	13	4.0	3.7	--
South Mountain	6340	2/6	31	10.0	14.1	9.0
Wilson Creek (A)	7500	2/5	27	8.6	8.9	--

MARCH 1, 1975

Bennett Mountain	6650	3/3	54	17.0	22.6	15.5*
Mount Baldy	9000	2/28	63	17.0	26.8	18.0
South Mountain	6340	2/25	45	14.0	16.2	11.3

APRIL 1, 1975

Lower Home Canyon	7500	4/1	56	16.6	14.6	--
South Mountain	6340	3/26	63	20.5	17.6	12.4

(b) 1958-72, 15 year period. #Not located directly on this drainage. \* Estimated 1958-72, 15 year Average. (A) Aerial observation Water content estimated. (SP) Pressure Pillow snow-water equivalent. (R) Radioactive Gage snow-water equivalent.

# Agencies and Organizations Cooperating in Idaho Snow Surveys

## GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

### States:

Idaho Department of Water Resources  
State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
University of Idaho  
Idaho State University  
Montana Agricultural Experiment Station  
Montana State Water Conservation Board  
Montana Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Nevada Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station  
Oregon Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Oregon State Engineer and Corps of  
State Watermasters  
Utah Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Wyoming Cooperative Snow Surveys

### Federal:

U.S. Army Engineers  
  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Agriculture Research Service  
  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
NOAA, National Weather Service  
  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bonneville Power Administration  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Water Resources Division, Geological Survey  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Land Management

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Montana Power Company  
Washington Water Power Company  
Idaho Power Company  
Utah Power and Light Company

## ORGANIZED PUBLIC AGENCIES

Big Lost River Irrigation District  
Blaine Soil Conservation District  
Boise Project Board of Control  
Idaho Water District #01  
Little Wood River Irrigation District  
Mann Creek Irrigation District  
Salmon Falls Creek Irrigation Company  
Twin Falls Soil Conservation District  
Big Wood Irrigation Company  
Owyhee Project - North & South Board of Control

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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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